

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, to say nothing of their being allowed to violate federal election campaign law with what amounts to an illegal contribution to the Bush campaign. Of course, no one will be held accountable and no one will end up doing any time for this criminal behavior and it will just be allowed to slip through the cracks.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.